

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MCT-01  
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R 131605Z SEP 77  
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9041  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: CSU REJECTS CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR COALITION'S HANDLING  
OF TERRORISM

REF: MUNICH 2671

1. SUMMARY. THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION HAS FORMALLY ADOPTED  
PARTY CHAIRMAN STRAUSS' STRATEGY OF REJECTING CO-RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S  
TERRORISM PROBLEM WHILE DOING NOTHING WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE  
THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE SCHLEYER CASE.  
ALTHOUGH SOME VOICES IN THE CSU ARE ADVOCATING REESTABLISHMENT  
OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, THE PARTY ITSELF HAS CAREFULLY REFRAINED  
FROM TAKING A POSITION ON THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 12, THE CSU PRESIDUM  
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AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED CHAIRMAN FRANZ  
JOSEF STRAUSS' POSITION ON THE SPD/FDP COALITION'S HANDLING  
OF TERRORISM.

3. IN THE CSU'S VIEW, THE FRG'S CRISIS COUNCIL (KRIESENSTAB)  
IS AN INSTRUMENT FOR SOLVING THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE  
ARISEN FROM THE KIDNAPPING OF SCHLEYER AND THE MURDER OF HIS

DRIVER AND BODY GUARDS BUT NOT AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE "REAPPORTIONING" OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMBATING TERRORISM. IT CANNOT, IN THE CSU'S VIEW, BE THE DUTY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPPOSITION PARTICIPATING IN THE CRISIS COUNCIL TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A SITUATION WHICH THE POLICY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, CONTRARY TO THE OPPOSITION'S DESIRE, HAS ALLOWED TO DEVELOP.

4. THE CSU HAS ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT APPARATUS TO LAY DOWN THE GROUND RULES FOR DEALING WITH TERRORISTS AND TO GO OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE.

5. IN ADDITION, THE CSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN A DECISION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP (ARBEITSKREIS) ON INTERNAL SECURITY AT THE CSU CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN MUNICH SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24.

6. MEANWHILE, BAVARIAN MIN INTERIOR SEIDL HAS CALLED FOR ELIMINATION OF THE PROVISION OF FRG BASIC LAW PROHIBITING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REESTABLISH THE DEATH SENTENCE, IT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE FRG PARLIAMENT TO INSTITUTE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR SPECIFIC CRIMES.

7. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH STRAUSS HAS NOW RETURNED FROM CANADA AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN SOME OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CRISIS COUNCIL, CSU STRATEGY CONTINUES TO BE THAT OF LIMITING ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE OVERALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERRORISM PROBLEM WHILE DOING NOTHING TO COMPLICATE THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN THE SCHLEYER CASE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL CSU OFFICIALS HAVE CALLED FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND BAVARIAN MIN INTERIOR SEIDL HAS ADVOCATED AMENDMENT OF BASIC LAW TO PERMIT THIS, THE PARTY ITSELF HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED TAKING A POSITION ON THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. BETTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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